

# Connecticut Department of Public Health Injured Workers and Opioid Use Symposium

Travelers Claim University on 99 Lamberton Road, Windsor, CT 06095

Wednesday, March 01, 2017

## Next Steps/ Moving Forward

- Integrate injury prevention and health promotion: a holistic approach to employee health and safety
- Incorporate injury prevention programs and chronic pain/substance abuse programs
- Educate workers on injury prevention and health promotion, also specifically on substance misuse/abuse
- Symposium like this one for business leaders to obtain their buy-in on importance of holistic approach to worker health and safety.
- Address insurance industry around coverage of non-pharmaceutical treatment for pain
- Implement Worker's Compensation Rx protocol
- Physician champions to education prescribing providers: Consider a traveling grand rounds; could be sponsored by professional groups such as New England College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (NECOEM)
- Educate prescribing physicians; could be a prerequisite to obtaining state prescription drug license. (Hartford hospital is educating prescribers using a video module)
- Address stigma associated with substance use disorders.
- Utilize Haven CT for healthcare providers with disordered substance use
- Education public about naloxone
- Emphasize safety in the workplace
- Encourage workplace reporting of injuries and substance use
- Stop direct to patient pharmaceutical ads
- Inform physicians performing independent medical exams of opioid prescription guidelines
- Set up return to work programs for success based on evidence presented at symposium
- Address disincentives of workers' compensation system
- Research around timing of return to work
- Use predictors to recognize those who are likely to develop substance use disorder
- Educate workers pre-injury to prepare for possibility of injury, opioids, and addictive potential
- Address adolescents around coping mechanisms for pain
- Train healthcare providers in brief cognitive behavior therapy techniques
- Educate public/ patients on safe disposal of medications

## Target Audience

- Send summary to Regional Action Council (RACs)

- CT business + CBIA
- Town government
- PTA meetings
- CIAC
- NCAA
- CT state legislators
  - Senators + representatives
  - Office policy and management
- Consumer protection